

Cabinet

Monday, 20 May 2024

Present: Dame N Redfearn DBE (Elected Mayor) (in the Chair)
Councillors C Johnson, S Graham, J Harrison, Janet Hunter, H Johnson and S Phillips

In Attendance: C Black, D Hodgson, R Layton, D McNally and V Smith

Apologies: Councillors K Clark, P Earley, A McMullen and D Whyte

CAB1/24 To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted

No declarations of interest or dispensations were reported.

CAB2/24 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB3/24 Report of the Young Mayor

The Young Mayor reported on the following activities in which he and Young Cabinet Members and/or Youth Councillors had been involved:

- A group of youth councillors had been helping with the Neuro Diversity transformation project for North Tyneside Council and had gathered young people's views about what Neuro Diversity meant to them.
- The Young People's Conference took place on Thursday 21st March at Linskill Centre. There were over 120 participants attended from twelve schools across the borough. In the workshops they looked at 'Young People's Democracy' and what it meant to them. The aim was to plan how they could reach a wider group of young people, leading to a greater

involvement through schools and colleges. Feedback from the young people about the conference had been very positive.

- A decision makers event was scheduled for the 5 June 2024 at the Council's offices, Quadrant, where Members could hear at first-hand from young people what the issues were connected to the conference and it was hoped that many could attend.
- North Tyneside's Children in Care Council played a key role in the Regional Children in Care Council conference which was held in Sedgfield last month. The focus of the conference which was led by the young care leavers was to challenge local decision makers and corporate parents on areas important to the young people.
- Youth councillors had attended the Big Base Bonanza in Whitley Bay. There were several performances by Base members after they had taken part in drama workshops, all of which had been funded by the Young Mayor grant fund. There were also stalls selling items that members had created as part of their social enterprise projects.
- The focus for youth council over the year would be the pledges that John and Young Mayor were elected on. Youth councillors would be supporting John and his aim to have young people spending smarter and other youth councillors would support the young mayor with his pledge about better health for young people in the borough. The Young Mayor had met with the Authority's Director for Public Health and her team and looked forward to working closely with them on a variety of projects.
- John and the Young Mayor had met with North Tyneside Council's Chief Executive and the Elected Mayor, he thanked them for their support and looked forward to achieving their pledges with everyone's support at North Tyneside Council.
- The Young Mayor had attended Shiremoor Adventure Playground's Annual General Meeting with John to hear from the young people about all the projects that they had been involved in.

The Elected Mayor thanked the Young Mayor for his update and praised the youth councillor's on highlighting these important issues in supporting young people.

CAB4/24 Better Care Fund – Approval of the Better Care Fund Plan 2024/25 and Authorisation to Enter Section 75 Partnership Agreement

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the draft Better Care Fund Plan

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for 2024/25 and authorisation for the Director of Adult Services to enter into a partnership agreement under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (“a section 75 Agreement”) following appropriate consultation.

The Authority was obliged by the “Better Care Fund planning requirements 2023–25” published by NHS England as part of the Better Care Fund planning process to enter into a section 75 Agreement. Although the current planning guidance covered a two-year period spanning financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25, a Planning Addendum was published on 28 March 2024 requiring the completion of a further template outlining spending plans and metrics targets for the second year 2024/25. A section 75 agreement must also be prepared and agreed for 2024/25 and this must be in place by 30 September 2024.

The Authority must submit its Better Care Fund Plan (BCF Plan) to NHS England By the national deadline of 10 June 2024. The BCF Plan required spending on all funding elements of the Plan to be jointly agreed by the Authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and for such funding to be a “pooled fund” and for the fund to be governed by a section 75 Agreement.

The deadlines published in the Addendum to the BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements for 2023/25 required this report to come to the 20 May 2024 Cabinet to allow for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board on twenty June 2024. The Better Care Fund policy framework allowed for Health and Wellbeing Boards to formally approve the planning submission after the national submission deadline. The documents submitted to Cabinet as part of this report remained draft at this stage and this report requests delegation for the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care to agree further changes as discussions with the ICB continued.

The BCF funding that the Authority will receive was dependent on the Authority having submitted an acceptable plan and entered into a Section 75 Agreement.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1: To approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) the draft Better Care Fund Narrative Plan be approved for submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board for further approval following initial

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submission to NHS England attached to the report at Appendix 1;
(2) the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, be authorised to agree further changes to the plans prior to submission to NHS England; and
(3) the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Director of Resources and Head of Law, be authorised to enter into an Agreement under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and to implement the financial and administrative arrangements for the Better Care Fund.

(Reason for Decision: The continuation of the Better Care Fund presents an opportunity to take forward the principles of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. If the requirement to submit a BCF Plan by 10 June 2024 and enter into a Section 75 Agreement is not met by 30 September 2024 the release of funds by NHS England could be delayed.)

CAB5/24 Exclusion Resolution

Resolved that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and having applied a public interest test as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB6/24 Corporate Risk Management Summary Report

Cabinet considered a report which detailed the corporate risks that had been identified for monitoring and management by the Authority's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and relevant Cabinet members. The report also provided detailed information on each risk and how it was being managed.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1: To consider the information provided for each of the corporate risks and endorse the outcome of the latest review by SLT as set out in the Appendix to the report.

Option 2: To consider the information provided for each of the corporate risks and

suggest changes to the corporate risks and their controls as set out in the Appendix to the report.

Resolved that the latest review of key corporate risks undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team, be endorsed.

(Reason for decision: Each of the corporate risks has undergone substantial review and challenge as part of the corporate risk management process. This is designed to provide assurance that corporate risks and opportunities are being identified and appropriately managed.)

CAB7/24 Unified Programme Contract Change Notice

A report was received on the procurement of a Unified Housing Solution software programme which was approved by Cabinet in 2021 and completed in 2023. At the end of a full procurement process, a contract was awarded to NEC Software Solutions UK Limited (NEC). NEC had reviewed the cost implications and proposed a Contract Change Notice (CCN001). This had been approved in principle by the Programme Board and budget had been identified to accommodate the change.

Cabinet considered the following decision options:

Option 1: to approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that (1) the acceptance of the Contract Change Notice between the Authority and NEC Software Solutions UK Limited, be approved; and (2) the Director of Housing and Property Services, in consultation with the Director of Resources and the Head of Law, be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the Contract Change Notice referred to in resolution (1) above.

(Reasons for Decision: Option 1 allows the programme to deliver the full potential benefits of the programme. It will be more cost-effective for improvements to be delivered as part of one coherent change programme, and will allow these improvements to be delivered earlier, than if improvements were managed as separate, future developments. Budget has been identified for the cost of the proposed change to the contract between the Authority and NEC, and the work can be managed by the existing programme team.

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If the recommendations are not approved, the further improvements that have been identified cannot proceed, and any future changes would have to be managed as separate future developments. This would increase supplier costs and would potentially require additional project resource to carry out the work outside of the current programme.)

CAB8/24 Authority Accommodation Review

A report was received which provided information on an opportunity that may arise for the Authority to acquire the leasehold interests, held by Legal and General Assurance (Pensions Management) Limited, that were in place in respect of the Quadrant East building.

Cabinet considered the following decision options: Option 1: to approve the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report, or alternatively, to not agree the recommendations.

Resolved that it be agreed in principle to the acquisition by the Authority of the leasehold interests in Quadrant East from Legal and General Assurance (Pension Management) Limited as detailed in the report, should the Authority receive a Pre-emption Price Notice from Legal and General Assurance (Pension Management) Limited.

(Reason for Decision: Option 1 is considered to be the best way to potentially secure the revenue savings as outlined in Section 2.1 of this report.)

CAB9/24 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 24 June 2024 at 6.00pm.

Minutes published on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

The decisions contained within these Minutes may be implemented (unless called in by 3 Non-Executive Members for consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordination & Finance Committee immediately following the expiry of the call-in period; i.e. 5.00pm on Tuesday 28 May 2024 (with the exception of Minute CAB8/24).

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In accordance with the Authority's Constitution and written approval from the Authority's Section 151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Chair of Council the decisions contained in Minute CAB8/24 are not subject to call-in and may be implemented immediately.